

THESIS ABSTRACT

THESIS: History and Meaning of Symbolic Rings

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In this creative project I explored carving in wax and casting in the lost wax method to create rings with characteristics from ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, medieval Europe, as well as contemporary designs. It was important to my work for me to understand the history and significance of symbolic rings, and how they have changed over time in design. After studying these time periods, I made numerous sketches of the rings. These designs were finalized, carved in wax, and then cast in metal. Measurements of the metal needed to cast each ring were taken and recorded. Experimenting with various tools I achieved a method that produced quality and satisfying results in the carving of the wax. Other traditional metal smith techniques were used, such as prong settings and post settings for stones in the completion of the rings.

